



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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With the Cold War behind us, the United States has a great historical opportunity to transform the nature of international security. I have asked the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs to develop a series of regional security reports, consistent with President Clinton's strategy of "Engagement and Enlargement," to explain our efforts to meet this challenge.

The Europe Strategy Report is part of this series. President Clinton has declared U.S. support for expanding the zone of stability through his vision of "a free and undivided Europe" and "an integrated democratic Europe cooperating with the United States to keep the peace and promote prosperity." We must seek to realize this vision by maintaining a strong NATO Alliance, while avoiding the creation of new dividing lines that could exacerbate security threats in Europe.

Overall, there is a need to develop a new security architecture in Europe that builds upon and adapts the current architecture. Fortunately, we and our transatlantic allies share common values and objectives, and have inherited from the Cold War era institutions and habits that facilitate coordination of policies and cooperation. We are now seeking to preserve, adapt, and extend these patterns and institutions to meet the new challenges and priorities of today.

As explained in this report, the United States has a comprehensive approach to creating a new security architecture for Europe. Its key elements include enhancing NATO's efforts to reach out to the East through the Partnership for Peace; developing a gradual, deliberate, and transparent process of NATO enlargement; building cooperative relationships with Russia; supporting European integration as embodied in the European Union (EU); and strengthening the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); as well as maintaining close bilateral relationships with both our allies and new partners.

I invite your attention to this important report.

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